

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 3.

C2
5. (Twice Amended) A method of preparing a pneumatic rubber tire having a steel cord reinforced carcass ply and an apex which comprises shaping and curing an uncured pneumatic rubber tire in a mold by pressing said tire outwardly against a mold surface under conditions of heat and pressure to cause at least the tread rubber of said tire to flow and cure against said mold surface, the improvement comprising the use of a rubber composition in the apex comprised of, based on 100 parts by weight rubber, (A) about 80 to about 97 parts by weight of at least one diene rubber selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, synthetic cis 1,4-polyisoprene rubber, cis 1,4-polybutadiene rubber; and (B) about 3 to about 20 parts by weight of a trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber having [at least 65 percent trans 1,4-content] a 65 to about 90 percent trans 1,4-content, a 5 to about a 20 percent of a vinyl 1,2 content and a 2 to about a 15 percent cis 1,4-content and, in its uncured state, a first major melting point in the range of about 35°C to about 45°C and a second minor melting point in the range of about 55°C to about 65°C.

SubD3
Cancel claim 7.

Please add the following new claims:

C3
SubD5
9. The tire of claim 1 wherein said trans 1,4-polybutadiene has a trans 1,4-content of about 80 percent, a cis 1,4-content of about 5 percent and a vinyl 1,2-content of about 15 percent.

10. The tire of claim 1 wherein said trans 1,4-polybutadiene has a number average molecular weight (Mn) of about 205,000.

11. The tire of claim 1 wherein said trans 1,4-polybutadiene has a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of about 403,000.